



THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

May 6, 2013

Representative Gail Haines

124 N. Capitol Avenue

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Lansing, MI 48908-7514

To the Honorable Chair Haines:

The Michigan Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends support for Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and respectfully requests your committee vote to support such legislation. Expedited Partner Therapy is the practice of treating the sex partners of patients with sexually transmitted infections via patient-delivered partner therapy without the partner receiving a medical evaluation or professional prevention counseling. A majority of states have adopted EPT legislation. Sexually transmitted infections disproportionately affect women and pose a significant yet preventable threat to their overall health. Gonorrhea and chlamydia are the most commonly reported sexually transmitted infections in the US and rates of infection are highest among women ages 15-24.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association all support the use of this breakthrough therapy to treat sexually transmitted infections which afflict so many young women in our state.

- Here in Michigan, data from the CDC indicates the incidence of sexually transmitted infections have steadily increased and chlamydial infections were the most prevalent.
 - 13, 413 cases were reported in 2007
 - 49, 568 cases were reported in 2011

Furthermore, chlamydial infections are usually asymptomatic and can result in pelvic inflammatory disease, a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. Half of pregnant women with untreated chlamydia transmit the infection to their infants.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends adherence to the CDC guidelines for EPT.

- All randomized controlled trials have shown a reduction in reinfection rates with chlamydia and gonorrhea when EPT is followed
- EPT is cost effective by reducing the health risk associated with untreated and recurrent infections

Adopting EPT legislation will allow for health care providers to treat the partners in a more timely manner and reduce the burden on the public health departments to track these individuals.

- The reinfection rate of chlamydia among women 15-19 is as high as 26% often due to an untreated male partner

Significant morbidity from sexually transmitted infections in the United States, coupled with diminished resources for traditional partner management practices, requires new public health strategies. By combining patient-based partner notification with clinical treatment through standard prescription antibiotics, EPT offers another tool to improve treatment for some sexually transmitted infections. The only barrier to overcome is the legal obstacles in our State. Therefore, I request you endorse the legislation to allow EPT to be implemented in Michigan.

Sincerely,



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2011*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2012.

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ACOG Committee Opinion #506. 2011

ABA House of Delegates, 2008